

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Activity and Movements in the Training Area of the Third  
Shock ArmyEVALUATION                      PLACE OBTAINED                     

50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT                     DATE OBTAINED                      DATE PREPARED 29 October 1954REFERENCES                     PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     REMARKS                       
                      
                    

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1. On 4 October 1954, an overhead telephone line was seen east of Burg. It ran along the Reesen-Hohenseeden road toward the northwest via the Ihle Kanal, proceeded east of Ihleburg and, from there, ran to the ferrying point near Parchau and on toward Kobbel. A second line branched off at the ferrying point near Parchau and ran via Kehnert and south of Mahlwinkel, crossed the railroad line and turned toward the northwest. Another line ran from Kobbel along the Birkholz-Tangerhuetten road, crossed the railroad line south of Tangerhuetten and went toward the west. A bridge was built over the Elbe River between Parchau and Kehnert. Numerous tracks of motor vehicles which ran in all directions along the western bank of the river indicated that a bridge head was formed on the western bank in the course of an attack which was directed westward across the Elbe. 1

2. At 1300 on 4 October, trucks                      drove along the Tangerhuetten-Luederitz road (15 km southwest of Stendal); 10 trucks                      drove along the road from Tangerhuetten toward Dolle. At about 1400, many vehicles and tanks were seen in the woods southeast of Luederitz, on either side of the Luederitz-Dolle road. About 30 camouflaged trucks were parked in a woods west of Mahlpfuhl (west of Tangerhuetten). At about 1500, about 25 trucks and 4 M-13 rocket launchers                      passed through Luederitz toward the north. Twenty other trucks                      and 1 armored personnel carrier followed. 2

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3. The following movements were noticed on 5 October:

At 0850: Mahlwinkel railroad station: about 30 trucks including                      troops with red-bordered black epaulets were entrained. Several guns, apparently ready for entraining stood in a woods near the station. 3

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At 0920: At Stendal railroad station: 8 medium AA guns and about 30 trucks were entrained

The train left toward the east at 1410. 5

At 1410: At Stendal railroad station: a train passed through the station toward Magdeburg via Denker. It carried 20 T-34/85s including eight SU-100s, 5 trucks and 1 armored scout car. 6

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At 1415: At Stendal railroad station: 6 light AAA guns and about 15 trucks were entrained. During the entraining, a jeep with portable radio set was parked near the station. It seemed that the individual units were directed from the assembly areas to the entraining station by radio. 5

At 1530: At Tangerhuetten railroad station: two trains with steaming locomotives were sidetracked with their engines headed northward. They carried a total of approximately 70 trucks

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At 1535: Muhlwinkel railroad station: 4 guns, presumably field howitzers, and 8 trucks were entrained. A large number of trucks was parked in the woods near the station. 7

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4. At 1530 on 7 October, about 20 SP guns 1 jeep and radio truck were detrained at Burg railroad station. Empty flatcars at the station indicated that other materiel had been detrained earlier. 6

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At 1620 on 7 October, a column with 6 guns and about 30 trucks passed through Genthin toward the south.

1. Comment. Since major contingents of engineer units assembled on the Elbe River, it is possible that more river crossing facilities were established in addition to the bridge between Parchau and Kehnert.

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2. Comment. units of the Third Shock Army were entrained.

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4. Comment. the trains carried units of the 6th Arty Div.

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5. Comment. 4 trains with units of the 32d AAA Div were either seen at Stendal railroad station or were seen en route toward Berlin on 5 October. These units are also believed to have participated in the maneuver of the Third Shock Army.

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6. Comment. [redacted] return shipments to Burg of units of the 136th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of the Third Shock Army. [redacted] on 7 October [redacted] a train with units of the regiment went from Hillersleben toward Magdeburg. [redacted]

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7. Comment. [redacted] units of the 4th Gds Arty Brig/IX Mtz Rifle Corps or of the 304th Arty Brig/LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps.

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